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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

GUGGENHEIM
CHECCHETTO
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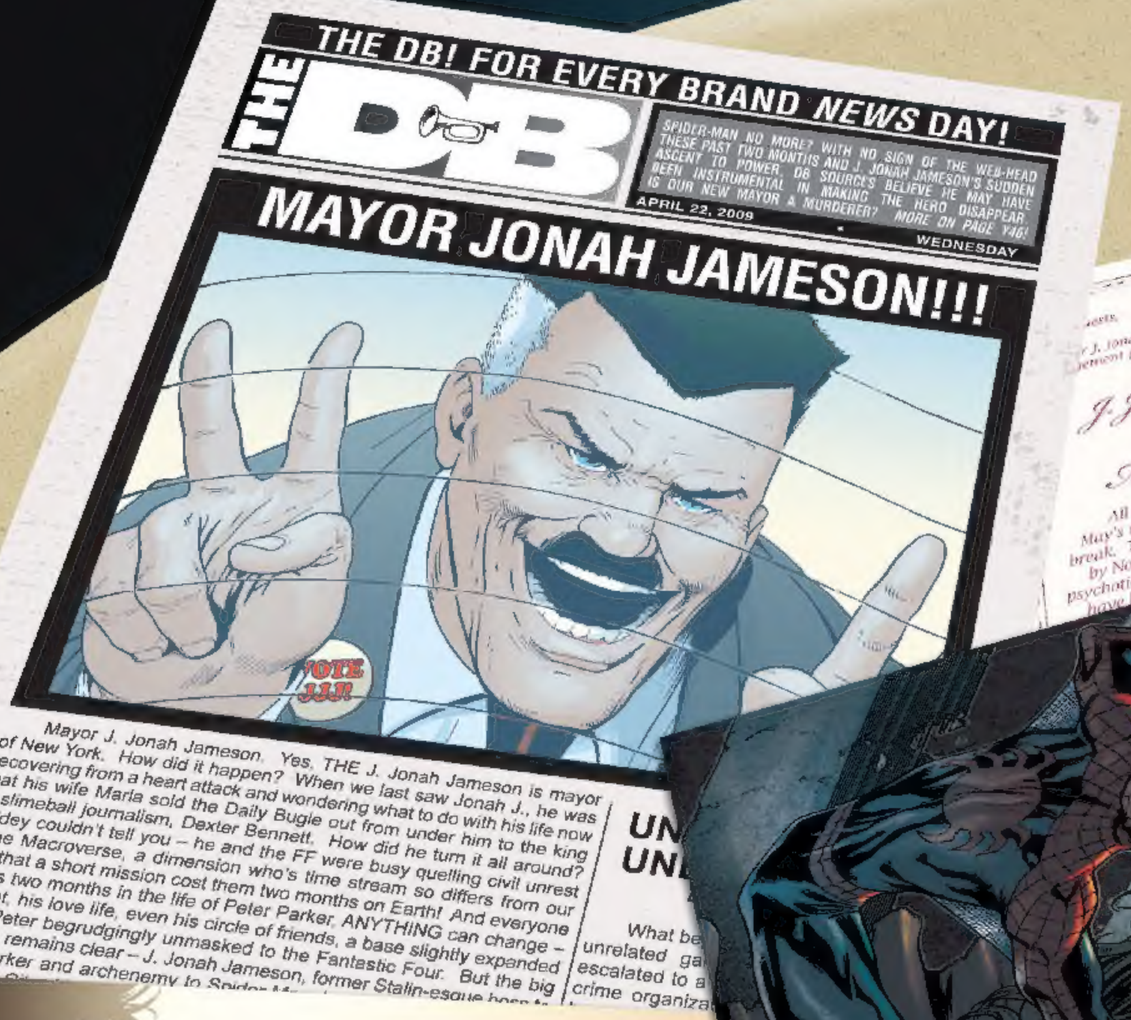
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN


THE DB! FOR EVERY BRAND NEWS DAY!
THE DB
SPIDER-MAN NO MORE? WITH NO SIGN OF THE WEB-HEAD THESE PAST TWO MONTHS AND J. JONAH JAMESON'S SUDDEN ASCENT TO POWER, DB SOURCES BELIEVE HE MAY HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN MAKING THE HERO DISAPPEAR. IS OUR NEW MAYOR A MURDERER? MORE ON PAGE Y46!
APRIL 22, 2009
WEDNESDAY
MAYOR JONAH JAMESON!!!
VOTE JJJ!!
Mayor J. Jonah Jameson. Yes, THE J. Jonah Jameson is mayor of New York. How did it happen? When we last saw Jonah J., he was recovering from a heart attack and wondering what to do with his life now that his wife Marla sold the Daily Bugle out from under him to the king of slimeball journalism, Dexter Bennett. How did he turn it all around? Spidey couldn't tell you – he and the FF were busy quelling civil unrest in the Macroverse, a dimension who's time stream so differs from our own that a short mission cost them two months on Earth! And everyone knows two months in the life of Peter Parker. ANYTHING can change – his rent, his love life, even his circle of friends, a base slightly expanded when Peter begrudgingly unmasked to the Fantastic Four. But the big problem remains clear – J. Jonah Jameson, former Stalin-esque boss to

PETER PARKER'S P.O.V.

Years ago, a mad scientist named the Jackal cloned me, Peter Parker, in an attempt to duplicate my spider-powers and have his own Spider-Man. That guy had his own conscience and ran off. Took the name Ben Reilly and became a hero. He died a hero.

But apparently a few years before that, he worked for a scientist named Damon Ryder. Ryder was experimenting with dinosaur DNA and turned himself into some form of enhanced superhuman. What happened then is anybody's guess, but he claims Ben burned his house down and killed his family. He's after Ben. Problem is – I'm the only guy alive who *looks* like Ben.

He tried to corner me at Front Line after I'd finished trading punches with that dot-com-convict Screwball, but I managed to scare him off. I tracked him down to my Aunt May's house, where he'd taken my cousins, the Reilly girls, hostage, along with their roommate, my best pal Harry Osborn.

Worse, my first clone, Kaine, has broken out of prison and is after Ryder. Claims Ryder can help him fight a cellular degeneration. Whenever Kaine shows up, it's trouble...

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Then.
PORTLAND, OREGON.
ALRIGHT...
Now.
QUEENS, NEW YORK.
ALRIGHT...
BEN REILLY AND PETER PARKER! TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN. ONE WHO WATCHED A FRIEND GO MAD YEARS AGO AND THE OTHER FACING THAT SAME MADMAN TODAY WHILE SURROUNDED BY INNOCENTS AT HIS AUNT'S HOME!
ONE OF THESE MEN WILL SOON DIE HAUNTED BY THE QUESTION:
WHO WAS BEN REILLY?

YOU'RE NOT WELL, DAMON. THAT DINO-CRAP YOU SHOT YOURSELF UP WITH HAS LITERALLY GOTTEN TO YOUR HEAD--

GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME, BEN--

...YOU'RE COMING WITH ME. YOU'RE COMING WITH ME AND I'M TAKING YOU TO A *HOSPITAL* THAT CAN FLUSH THAT DINO-DNA OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM--

I TOLD YOU...

LET GO OF ME!

CRAK

FGH--

DAMON... LOOK AT YOU, MAN.

FOR GODSSAKES YOUR WIFE AND *KIDS* ARE DOWNSTAIRS--

I'M NOT LETTING YOU TAKE THIS AWAY FROM ME, BEN--

SHIK

WHAT THE--?

SKRAAAAASSHHHH

HELLO, BEN.

WHAT THE HELL?!

KAINE! NO. NOT HERE. NOT NOW.

WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?

DAMON, RUN!

HE SEEMS NOT TO LIKE YOU TOO MUCH.

I CAN RELATE.

KAINE--THIS ISN'T--THIS ISN'T A GOOD TIME--

DYING IS *NEVER* CONVENIENT. TRUST ME, I KNOW.

"I GUESS THIS IS IT..."

Now.

...BECAUSE I'M NOT PROTECTING THE OLD SECRET IDENTITY AT THE EXPENSE OF MY BEST FRIEND AND MY NEWLY MINTED COUSINS --

HELLO, PETER...

...SO *NICE* YOU COULD JOIN US ALL.

KAINE?!

WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING HERE--

DAMON-- EXCUSE ME, *RAPTOR*--INVITED ME, THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE FUN.

I'M FALLING APART, PARKER. CELL BY CELL.

TURNS OUT, RYDER *CAN* HELP ME WITH MY LITTLE HEALTH PROBLEM.*

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS *HURT* YOU A BIT.

PETE!

*KAINE SUFFERS FROM A CELLULAR DEGENERATIVE CONDITION AS A RESULT OF BEING AN IMPERFECT CLONE. I CAN RELATE. --WACKER

WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?! LET HIM GO, YOU LONGHAIRED FREAK!

-UNF-

DON'T BE RUDE.

HARRY!

CRAK

"DON'T BEG, REILLY."

=HNK= NO...

SHUT UP!

WE'VE GOT THE SAME DNA AND I KNOW FOR A FACT YOU'RE MADE OF STERNER STUFF THAN THAT.

YOU'RE AS SMART AS EVER, KAINE!

WHAT I MEANT WAS...

KSSH

...THIS REALLY ISN'T A GOOD TIME.

Y'KNOW, NORMALLY I'D SAY THAT JOKE BROUGHT THE HOUSE DOWN...

...BUT I'M NOT REALLY IN A MOOD TO SCREW AROUND!

YOU'RE MESSING WITH MY FRIENDS, KAINE...

...AND IT'S GETTING OLD!

FOOOOOOONNNNK

RAAAAAAAARRRRR!

CAN I QUOTE YOU?

GRRR...

GOOD BOY. KEEP FOLLOWING ME WHILE I GET MY PRIORITIES IN ORDER.

FIRST OF ALL, I HAVE TO GET TO DAMON BEFORE HE HURTS LAURA OR THE KIDS...

YOU'RE GOING TO BURN, REILLY!

THIS NEW LIFE OF YOURS? IT'S GOING TO BURN!

WORST. TIMING. EVER.

KAINE-- DAMN YOU-- YOU RUIN EVERY-THING...

KNAK

DAMON! WHERE ARE YOU?!

HOUSE HAS GONE UP LIKE A CANDLE.

I HOPE LAURA WAS able TO GET HERSELF AND THE KIDS OUT BEFORE--

OH NO.

NO!!!

DAMON!

THE KIDS...LAURA... WHERE IS...WHAT HAVE...?

DAMON... REMEMBER WHEN I SAID THIS EXPERIMENT OF YOURS WOULDN'T TURN OUT WELL?

THIS IS WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT.

"CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT'S GOING ON, REILLY?!"

...RYDER NEEDED ME HERE HERE BECAUSE I THINK HE WANTS TO *RELIVE* A CERTAIN EVENING IN PORTLAND.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, KAINE.

ACTUALLY...

TEK

...I THINK YOU DO!

FOOOOM

YOU'RE GOING TO WATCH *YOUR* FAMILY BURN, BEN.

FOOOOOOOOOOOOMP

YOU'RE GOING TO EXPERIENCE *EXACTLY* WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOOK AT THE BODIES OF YOUR LOVED ONES, THEIR FLESH *CRACKED* AND *CHARRED*, THEIR EYES FILLED ONLY WITH *ASH*.

WELCOME, REILLY...

"...WELCOME TO MY HELL!"

I TOLD YOU THIS WOULD HAPPEN, DAMON! I *WARNED* YOU!

BEN! NO--!!

GNF--

CHOK

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND HOW LUCKY YOU WERE, DAMON?! YOU WON! IT WAS ALL IN YOUR HANDS!

THINGS SOME PEOPLE SPEND THEIR LIVES SEARCHING FOR!

GRRN--

DOESN'T IT MEAN *ANYTHING* TO YOU? YOUR CHILDREN...YOUR WIFE...

UNGH--LAU--LAURA...

DAMMIT! WHY DIDN'T YOU LISTEN TO ME?

LAURA! GET THE KIDS OUT! GET OUT OF THE HOUSE!

PLEASE... BEN...I BEG YOU... JUST...

...JUST LET MY FAMILY GO...

PLEASE...

DAMON...

YOU SICK, TWISTED MONSTER...

YOU'VE ALREADY *KILLED* YOUR FAMILY.

"WHAT THE HELL IS THIS MONSTER TALKING ABOUT, PETE?"

Now.

DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO THIS GUY'S FAMILY?

HOW CAN I EXPLAIN THAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT A VERSION OF ME THAT'S, APPARENTLY, CAPABLE OF WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENT PEOPLE?

BEN...WHAT DID YOU DO TO THIS MAN?

TRUST ME, HARRY...

...HE'S INSANE! JUST-- JUST GET READY TO RUN...!

WHAT DO YOU THINK *YOU'RE* GONNA DO THAT'LL GIVE 'EM THAT CHANCE?

ME? NOTHING.

THEN WHAT--

ALRIGHT, SCREWBALL *FANS!* IT'S TIME TO GET THIS PARTY STARTED!

FINALLY.

SOMETHING GOES RIGHT.

SCREWBALL ARRIVES PRACTICALLY RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.

WOW. I REALLY COULDN'T HAVE TIMED THAT BETTER IF I'D PLANNED IT.

WAITASECOND. I *DID* PLAN IT.

MAN, AM I GOOD. I LOVE IT WHEN I'M THIS GOOD.

HEY, YOU'RE NOT SPIDER-MAN...

PERCEPTIVE.

BRATATATATATATATATAT

WHOA! WHAT'S WITH THE SHOOTIN, TEX?! AND WHERE THE HECK IS SPIDER-MAN?!

RIGHT HERE.

CRAK

SPIDER-MAN ACCEPTED MY CHALLENGE!*

I'VE GOT SUBSCRIBERS *PAYING* FOR THE GENUINE ARTICLE, NOT SOME CRACKPOT WHO LOOKS LIKE HE STEPPED OUT OF THE NINETIES!

*REMEMBER THAT TEXT SPIDEY MADE LAST ISSUE? --WACKER

HARRY! GET MY COUSINS OUT OF HERE AND CALL THE COPS!

PETER! IT'S GONNA BE OKAY...

WHO *ARE* THESE PEOPLE?

LONG STORY FALLOUT FROM A STORY I DID FOR FRONT LINE RISK OF THE PROFESSION VERY UNFORTUANTE SORRY YOU GOT SUCKED INTO IT.

NOW! GO! GET THEM OUT OF HERE!

AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

THE PARTY'S JUST GETTING STARTED.

PETER!

C'MON!

RAPTOR, TIME TO GET THIS DONE!

SORRY, AUNT MAY.

I KNOW YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO OPEN UP THE LIVING ROOM, BUT I'M SURE THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU MEANT.

SSKRRRNSHHHH

OH, BOY, *THIS* IS GONNA TAKE SOME MONEY TO REMODEL.

GLAD YOU MARRIED A RICH GUY.

COST OF DRYWALL... $3,000.

COST OF LABOR... $8,000.

COST OF KEEPING SECRET IDENTITY SECRET...

PRICELESS.

SPIDER-MAN!

YOU SHOWED!

OF COURSE I DID. BUT NOW THAT YOU'VE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE AS A *DISTRACTION*, I'M GOING TO KNOCK YOU UNCONSCIOUS AND THEN DEAL WITH BIGGER PROBLEMS.

WHAT--?

SHRAK

SORRY. I THOUGHT WE WERE HAVING A STATE-THE-OBVIOUS CONTEST.

I WIN, BY THE WAY.

-NGGH-

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SORRY FOLKS, SCREWBALL'S WEBCAST IS OFF THE AIR.

PLEASE GO BACK TO WATCHING MONKEYS ON ICE-SKATES OR WHATEVER ELSE YOU DO WITH THE INTERNET.

DOWNLOAD

SCREWBALL LIVE

GGARRRGH!!!

SPIDER-MAN--

WHY DOES EVERYONE KEEP SAYING MY NAME LIKE IT'S A GUESS OR SOMETHING?

I MEAN, ISN'T IT OBVIOUS I'M SPIDER-MAN FROM THE *COSTUME?*

SHINK

OR THE WEB-SHOOTING?

CHAK

TAK

TAK

CHAK

WHY ARE YOU *ALWAYS* PROTECTING REILLY?!*

THAT, MY FRIEND, IS SUCH A LONG STORY, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME IF I TOLDYA!

BUT THE SHORT VERSION IS THAT THE GUY YOU'VE BEEN CHASING AFTER IS *NOT* BEN REILLY.

ENOUGH OF YOUR LIES!

IT'S TRUE, DAMON.

HE'S NOT LYING. PARKER AND REILLY ARE TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

HCK--

*SPIDEY "CONVENIENTLY" SHOWED UP IN BOSTON TO COME TO PETER'S RESCUE BACK IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #36.
--WACKER

YOU WANT TO SEE WHY IT'S SO CONFUSING?

WHAT--? DON'T--

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A BIT CURIOUS WHY YOUR ENEMIES DON'T DO ONE SIMPLE THING--

KAINE--

STAY STILL.

LOOK, DAMON. GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU HERE...

NO! GOTTA TRY TO STICK MY SKIN TO THE MASK!

THIS FACE FAMILIAR?

GREAT. THIS IS GONNA GO OVER LIKE A FART IN CHURCH.

REILLY!!!

NO, YOU OUT OF CONTROL FOOL!

REILLY'S *DEAD*. DIED YEARS AGO.

THIS IS HIS *CLONE*.

BUT GO AHEAD. REVENGE AGAINST HIM'S THE NEXT BEST THING.

SCIENTIST LIKE YOURSELF SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE...

"...WHATEVER REILLY'S CAPABLE OF, THIS GUY IS, TOO.

"REILLY KILLED YOUR FAMILY. BUT IT JUST AS WELL COULD HAVE BEEN *THIS* MAN.

"THERE'S REALLY NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO.

SHAKT

" IT'S LIKE THEY SAY, 'THE SINS OF THE FATHER ARE VISITED UPON THE SON.'

"SO TAKE YOUR JUSTICE WHILE IT'S STILL BREATHING."

KAINE'S RIGHT.

IT'S WHAT'S ALWAYS BOTHERED ME ABOUT KAINE--WHATEVER BEN WAS CAPABLE OF...I AM, TOO.

"I AM HE AS YOU ARE HE AS YOU ARE ME AND WE ARE ALL TOGETHER."

THANKS LENNON/ MCCARTNEY... THAT MAY JUST BE MY WAY IN!

WHICH REMINDS ME THAT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO REPLACE ALL AUNT MAY'S BEATLES ALBUMS AFTER THIS.

DAMON...

HE'S *LYING.*

BEN REILLY DIDN'T KILL YOUR FAMILY.

Then.

NO...
NO...
NO...

YOU'RE *LYING*, BEN!

YOU'RE *LYING*! I'D NEVER DO THAT! I'D NEVER HURT THEM!!! I'D NEVER HURT THEM! I'D NEVER--!

DAMON...

CRAK

...SHUT THE HELL UP.

WELL, ISN'T *THAT* INTERESTING...

HE BLAMES *YOU* FOR ALL THIS, BEN REILLY.

...AND ONE DAY IT WILL COST YOU DEARLY.

DAMON SHOULDN'T BE BLAMING ME FOR THIS. *YOU'RE* THE REASON THIS GOT OUT OF CONTROL.

HE SHOULD BE BLAMING *YOU*.

IN A WAY, BEN, HE IS.

BECAUSE YOU AND ME... END OF THE DAY... WE'RE THE SAME PERSON.

YEAH, I CAN TELL FROM THE WAY YOU'RE ALWAYS TRYING TO KILL ME.

WELL, MAYBE I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA NOW.

YOUR FRIEND HERE MAY BE CRAZIER THAN ME, BUT HE THINKS *YOU* BUTCHERED HIS FAMILY.

MIGHT BE INTERESTING TO LET YOU BOTH LIVE--FOR NOW--SEE HOW *THAT* PROGRESSES.

EITHER WAY, I'M GONNA ENJOY WATCHING WHATEVER HAPPENS NEXT.

OR YOU COULD JUST LEAVE HIM HERE, UNCONSCIOUS. LET HIM BURN TO DEATH WITH THE WIFE AND KIDDIES.

"THAT'S THE TRUTH, RAPTOR. YOU CAN'T BLAME ME *OR* BEN REILLY."

LIES!

NO! BEN REILLY DIDN'T KILL ANYONE.

KAINE'S RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING. I'M WHOEVER BEN REILLY WAS.

HE'S NOT A KILLER.

HE NEVER WAS...

NEVER COULD BE...

AND I KNOW THIS BECAUSE...

AND I'M HERE TO TELL YOU...

I'M NOT A KILLER.

AND I KNOW *THAT* BECAUSE YOU'VE COME HERE, SET FIRE TO MY AUNT'S HOUSE, THREATENED MY BEST FRIEND, TERRORIZED MY *FAMILY*...

...AND I'M LETTING YOU *LIVE*.

YEAH, I'M GONNA WEB YOU UP NICE AND GOOD AND TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH YOU BEFORE THE--

POLICE!

--GET HERE. OH GREAT!

OKAY, SO IT LOOKS LIKE HARRY FOUND HIMSELF A PHONE...

FREEZE!

NYPD!

FREEZE!

THWAP

THWAP

THWAP

ON THE FLOOR ON THE FLOOR ON THE FLOOR!!!

RAPTOR--

KAINE--

SCREWBALL, TOO.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?

FELLAS, I HATE TO BREAK UP THE BAND...

S.W.A.T.

BUT I GOT NOSE-BLEED KNICKS TICKETS!

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM...

HOLD IT!

LET 'IM GO, STONE...THIS PLACE IS SHOT UP ENOUGH.

--THEY DIDN'T STICK AROUND TO GET *ARRESTED.*

NOT A BAD PLAN.

Epilogue. That Night.

SO NOW I'VE GOT A WHOLE NEW MESS OF WORRIES WITH A HOUSE I NEED TO GET REPAIRED AND A MANIAC OUT THERE WHO'S SEEN MY FACE.

BUT SO FAR, NO SIGN OF RAPTOR.

NO TRACE OF KAINE.

AND SCREWBALL REMAINS #1 ON GOOGLE TRENDS.

NEW YORK'S FINEST HAD NO LUCK TRACKING THEM.

AND I *COULDN'T.*

BECAUSE I HAD SOMEWHERE ELSE I HAD TO BE.

HE THREW YOU THROUGH A *WALL?* HOW IS IT YOU DON'T HAVE A FEW BROKEN BONES?

BECAUSE I ABSORBED MOST OF THE IMPACT WITH MY *HEAD.*

AND I KNOW ABOUT EIGHT DIFFERENT SECRET WAYS INTO THIS HOUSE.

THAT'S SOME GOOD THINKING.

I THOUGHT SO.

WHO WERE THOSE MEN, PETER?

"OH, JUST A BUNCH OF CRAZIES."

YOU SAID YOU COULD HELP ME!!!

YES...

I BELIEVE THAT'S WHAT'S CALLED A *LIE.*

YOU SEEMED SO *EAGER* TO KILL "PETER PARKER," IF I HADN'T TEMPTED YOU, IT WOULD'VE BEEN A WASTE OF PERFECTLY GOOD *RAGE.*

"IT'S FUNNY, BUT...THE LARGER ONE KIND OF LOOKED LIKE YOU, PETER."

YEAH, IF YOU BULKED UP A BIT--

A LOT.

AND GREW A DADDY BEAR BEARD.

"YOU COULD BE A DEAD RINGER FOR HIM."

FUNNY YOU GIRLS SHOULD PUT IT THAT WAY.

WHY?

IT'S... HARD TO EXPLAIN.

I GUESS IT'S JUST... YOU LOOK AT SOME PEOPLE...

"...AND IT MAKES YOU THINK ABOUT THE PATH NOT TAKEN."

The End.